

Abstract 578

TITLE: Integrating Practice and Research to Design Prevention Measures in African-American Communities

AUTHORS: Gooley, RL (Your Research Source, Detroit, MI)

ISSUE: Practitioners and researchers agree that the key to eradicating HIV/AIDS lies with developing prevention initiatives at the community level (Gooley 1997). However, there exists a gulf between research and practice, thereby limiting the formation of community coalitions. There is a need for research frameworks that can be used to enhance the collaborative efforts of community workers and researchers.

SETTING: Community-based organizations and social science researchers.

PROJECT: I relied on two models to construct a framework for gathering data to be used in a needs assessment. The Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) and the Community Oriented Needs Assessment (CONA) models provided me with a structure for obtaining information from community residents. I worked with three community-based organizations to gain a more comprehensive perspective on the leaders' responses to the HIV/AIDS crisis and related problems. A combination of interviewing and a focus group discussion was used to determine the HIV/AIDS orientations of twelve residents.

RESULTS: The findings suggest that this group of residents is willing to participate in activities to bring an end to HIV/AIDS in their community. They perceive their social networks as the most important sources of potential activism, and that organizations should be responsible for mobilizing residents,.

LESSONS LEARNED: Must obtain information directly from community residents. Interrelationships can be formed between residents, leaders, and researchers. The different perspectives of each group would benefit the implementation of prevention efforts.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Ruby L. Gooley, Ph.D.

Address: P.O. Box 15244
Detroit, MI 48215

Telephone: (313) 822-1606